



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,955	08/26/2003	Tricia Susan Reighard	IP-023694	3725

1726 7590 12/04/2006

INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY
6285 TRI-RIDGE BOULEVARD
LOVELAND, OH 45140

EXAMINER

PATTERSON, MARC A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1772

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/647,955	Applicant(s) REIGHARD ET AL.	
	Examiner Marc A. Patterson	Art Unit 1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-50 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-50 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION
WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

1. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claims 29 – 48 as being unpatentable over Gibbons et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,888,222), of record on page 2 of the previous Action, is withdrawn.

NEW REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 29 – 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibbons et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,888,222) in view of Hartman (U.S. Patent No. 5,180,802).

With regard to Claims 29 – 31, 33, and 36, Gibbons et al disclose a barrier laminate (oxygen impermeable laminate; column 4, lines 57 – 61) comprising a paperboard substrate (therefore having a first surface and second surface; column 4, lines 57 – 68), layer of polyolefin applied directly onto the second surface of the paperboard substrate (low density polyethylene; column 4, lines 67 – 68; column 5, lines 1 – 9; Figure 1), a first layer of polyamide, which is an abuse resistant polymer, applied directly onto the first surface of the paperboard substrate (abuse resistant polymer comprising nylon; column 5, lines 2 – 9; Figure 1), a first oxygen barrier layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol applied directly onto the first polyamide layer (column 5, lines 9 – 10, column 7, lines 49 – 57; Figure 1), a caulk layer applied directly on the barrier layer (column 5,

Art Unit: 1772

lines 12 – 16; Figure 1) and a polyolefin layer applied onto the caulk layer as the innermost and product contact layer (lastly coated thereon therefore in contact with any product contained by the laminate, a layer of low density polyethylene; column 5, lines 15 – 19). Gibbons et al fail to disclose a polyamide consisting of a polyamide.

Hartman et al teach a caulk comprising a polyamide in the making of a container (package; column 5, lines 16 – 21) for the purpose of obtaining a container having stability (column 5, lines 16 – 21). One of ordinary skill in the art would therefore have recognized the advantage of providing for the polyamide of Hartman et al in Gibbons et al, which comprises caulk, depending on the desired stability of the end product.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a caulk comprising a polyamide in Gibbons et al in order to obtain a container having stability as taught by Hartman et al; Hartman et al do not teach a component of the caulk other than polyamide, therefore the layer would consist of a polyamide.

Gibbons et al also fail to disclose a second layer of polyamide, a first tie layer, a second oxygen barrier layer and a second tie layer comprising ethylene vinyl alcohol between the oxygen barrier layer and caulk layer. However, Gibbons et al disclose additional layers of abuse resistant polymer, tie layer and oxygen barrier material (column 8, lines 34 – 38) and teach the selection of the number of additional layers and the ordering of the additional layers depending on the desired specifications of the end product (column 8, lines 36 – 38). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the utility of varying the number of additional layers and the ordering of the additional layers to obtain the desired specifications. Therefore, the

specifications would be readily determined by through routine optimization of the number of additional layers and the ordering of the additional layers by one having ordinary skill in the art depending on the desired use of the end product as taught by Gibbons et al.

It therefore would be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to vary the number of additional layers and the ordering of the additional layers in order to obtain the desired specifications, since the specifications would be readily determined through routine optimization by one having ordinary skill in the art depending on the desired end result as shown by Gibbons et al.

With regard to Claim 32, the first and second polyamide layers comprise nylon 6 (column 5, line 6).

With regard to Claim 34, the tie layers comprise an ethylene copolymer with a grafted functional group (column 8, lines 24 – 30); the claimed aspect of the tie layers being an ethylene based copolymer modified with maleic anhydride functional groups therefore reads on Gibbons et al.

With regard to Claim 35, as stated above, Gibbons et al disclose additional layers of abuse resistant polymer, tie layer and oxygen barrier material, and therefore also discloses an additional oxygen barrier layer comprising ethylene vinyl alcohol, which is a polyolefin, and an additional tie layer.

With regard to Claims 37 – 48, Gibbons et al disclose a container for liquid food (carton; column 1, lines 41 – 46), therefore including citrus juice, therefore a perishable product, that is sealed (column 1, lines 53 – 56), and the laminate therefore comprises a blank. The claimed aspects of the container being hot filled, to kill microorganisms, and cooling the product, and

cold filled, and stored at room temperature are given little patentable weight, as the limitations are directed to intended uses of the laminate, rather than structural limitations.

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

4. Applicant's arguments and amendments regarding the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claims 29 – 48 as being unpatentable over Gibbons et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,888,222), of record in the previous Action, have been considered and have been found to be persuasive. The rejection is therefore withdrawn. The new rejections above are directed to amended Claims 29 – 50.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A Patterson whose telephone number is 571-272-1497.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1772

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marc Patterson 11/27/06
Marc A. Patterson, PhD.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772